Increase in Subsidy to Handloom Industry in Maharashtra

836. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have decided to increase the subsidy to the handloom industry in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) A proposal for enhancing the rate of subsidy on Janata cloth produced in handloom sector is under consideration of Government.

Unaccounted Wealth Seized from Mahesh Yogi's Ashram

837. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unaccounted wealth in the form of jewellery, cash and foreign exchange has been seized by the income-tax authorities from Mahesh Yogi's Ashram in Noida;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what punitive action Government have taken in the matter;

(c) what is the number of imported video casettes, tape-recorders and two-in-ones seized during the raid and the value thereof;

(d) whether his relatives are involved in concealment of income-tax and whether their premises have also been raided; and

(e) whether a similar raid has been conducted on a religious leader and Godman in Dehgam town in Gujarat; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Income Tax Department conducted searches at the Ashram of Shri Mahesh Yogi and also at the premises of his close associates. During the searches, *prima facie* unaccounted assets such as cash jewellery and others valued at over Rs 55 lakhs and foreign exchange valued at Rs. 1.76 lakhs were seized. Appropriate acton for examination of documents and assessments, with all attendent consequences under the Direct Taxes Acts is taken in these cases.

(c) No such items were seized.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Income-tax Department ras conducted a search at the premises of Shri Kalanidhi Goswami and his associates. During the course of these searches *prima facie* unaccounted assets worth Rs. 35.88 lakhs were seized and these persons have admitted concealed income amounting to Rs. 27.21 lakhs during the course of the searches.

राजभाषा अधिनियम के उपबन्धों का कार्यान्वयन

838. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह पता लगाने के लिये कभी कोई प्रयास किया गया है कि राज-